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N. E. FARMER.

BLACKSMITH'S WORK.

As many of our farmers have blacksmith's shops of their own, the following directions for working steel and making edged tools, plain and simple as they are, may be of great value to them, if carefully enjoined upon their smiths, who are frequently great bunglers in this kind of work.—*Southern Planter.*

"*Working Cast Steel.*—We have recently obtained information on this subject from the most skillful and celebrated workman in the U. States, Capt. J. Hill, of Billerica, Mass. We were a little surprised to learn the difference in the management of cast steel, from that of the German.

There is something yet remaining mysterious with regard to the nature and management of this article, which no cyclopedia or other vehicle of intelligence have as yet developed.

The process of manufacturing cast steel, it is not our purpose at present to describe; but it is evidently composed of refined iron and carbon in very nice proportions. In the process of shaping it into cutting blades and other articles, it is heated and hammered in the manner of other steel; when tempered for this purpose, it is first heated to a full cherry red, and plunged into water till cold. It may then be held over a moderate charcoal fire, until the color of any part which has been filed or made bright after hardening, changes to a reddish orange color.

This is the temper for cutting tools, but if a spring temper is required, it is heated over the charcoal till the color approaches a blue, or rather blue inclined to red. In either case when the steel is brought to show these colors, it is to be plunged in oil—common lamp or linseed oil—which will not affect the color.

If the steel is to be rendered soft for turning or cutting, it must be heated to a full red, and left to cool in partially ignited charcoal; in this way it may be made so soft as to be cut or turned into shape as easily as copper, or even common pewter.

But the most curious and peculiar process is that of welding. In welding iron, a white heat is indispensable, as every body knows; but not so with cast steel. When the steel is to be welded to iron, neither are to be heated above a full cherry red. The two parts are to be previously lashed or griped together, and in that condition heated: they have then only to be immersed in calcined borax, or to have the prepared borax (borate of soda,) sprinkled over the joint, and are ready to adhere by being hammered together.

The borax for this purpose is to be prepared by being previously heated to a full red, and kept heated till it becomes a soft powder like flour.

What the chemical effect of the calcined borax on the metalic surfaces is, is not perfectly understood farther than that its affinity for oxygen is such as to deprive the jointed surfaces of any portion of oxygen which might prevent a ready union of the surfaces.

When small pieces of steel are to be welded, they are to heated to the full cherry red, and immersed in the calcined borax, and then to be hammered together.

The most extraordinary point in the process is the fact, that if the steel is but a little overheated, it will immediately crack into fragments; but by a shifted process, and with the use of borax, the cracks and defects may be healed and rendered sound and solid. We have witnessed the fact, that by a judicious management, a fine tempered cutting edge of cast steel may be bent, warped and hammered, and its shape materially changed without breaking or affecting the temper.

More may be said on this subject in a future number, but we close for the present with the remark, that even Anderson & Co., the celebrated manufacturers of cast steel, are evidently unacquainted with all the merits of its peculiar properties.—*Amer. Mechanic.*"

SIX REASONS FOR PLANTING AN ORCHARD.

1st. Would you leave an inheritance to your children?—plant an orchard. No other investment of money and labor will, in the long run, pay so well.

2d. Would you make home pleasant—the abode of the social virtues?—plant an orchard. Nothing better promotes among neighbors a feeling of kindness and good will, than a treat of good fruit often repeated.

3d. Would you remove from your children the strongest temptation to steal?—plant an orchard. If children cannot obtain fruit at home, they are very apt to steal it; and when they have learned to steal fruit, they are in a fair way to learn to steal horses.

4th. Would you cultivate a constant feeling of thankfulness towards the great Giver of all good?—plant an orchard. By having constantly before you one of the greatest blessings given to man, you must be hardened indeed if you are not influenced by a spirit of humility and thankfulness.

5th. Would you have your children love their home; respect their parents while living, and venerate their memory when dead; in all their wanderings look back upon the home of their youth as a sacred spot, an oasis in the great wilderness of the world?—then plant an orchard.

6th. In short, if you wish to avail yourself of the blessings of a bountiful Providence, which are within your reach, you must plant an orchard. And when you do it, see that you plant good fruit. Do n't plant crab apple trees, nor wild plums, nor Indian peaches. The best are the cheapest.—*Far. Month. Visitor.*

Whitewash that will not rub off.—Mix half a pail of lime and water ready to put on the wall; then take a gill of wheat flour, mix up well in a very little cold water, then pour boiling water over it till it thickens. Pour it into the whitewash while hot, and stir the whole together.—*Selected.*

LIME.

If any one doubts the paramount benefits of this article in any soil or situation, let him try half an acre, lime it well, and we think that in four or five years he will extend the application. One *well-done* is forever done with this great fertilizer. Who ever saw the ruins of a house where the plastering and mortar is found, but has seen the rich strong grass, at all seasons, wet and dry? What produces this? The fertility that gathers to the residence of man cannot thus last. Can it be any other than the lime in the mortar?

Lime acts more decisively upon some soils than upon others, but limestone land is ever fertile wherever found, and where it is deficient, if we add it, it will remain. It seems to act in the manures as a kind of condiment, preparing them for the appetites of the plants.

A small portion of lime or alkaline matter is found in all vegetables, grasses and trees; lime supplies this, and hence the vigorous growth wherever it is found.

It is much more advantageous to double the produce of one acre, than to work two acres for the same return. Let us try this article. If we see no marked advantage the first year, and but little the second, doubt not: for it requires time to get this material fairly under way. But when it does act, its operation is steady and durable, and annually returns the cost of the application.—*Far. Month. Visitor.*

Bleeding at the Nose.—The following simple means for arresting epistaxia, or bleeding at the nose, may be worthy of a trial, coming as it does from a scientific quarter—Dr. Nigrier, of Angiers. This is nothing more than closing with the opposite hand, the nostril from which the blood flows, while the arm of the same side is raised perpendicularly above the head. In every instance in which he has had recourse to this means during the past three years, Dr. Nigrier has always found that it suspended the hemorrage.—*Foreign pap.*

Too True.—The celebrated John Randolph, on a visit to a female friend, found her surrounded with her seamstresses, making up a quantity of clothing. "What work is this you are so busy with?" he asked. "O, sir, I am preparing this clothing to send to the poor Greeks." On taking leave, at the steps of the mansion he saw some of her servants in need of the very clothing which their tender-hearted mistress was sending abroad. "Madam," he exclaimed, "*the Greeks are at your door!*"—*Selected.*

"John, how high as the corn got up?" "Wall, sir, that depends on the flight of the crows. 'T is purty tall, any how, for I seed some of it go up out of sight this morning."—*Windham Co. Dem.*

To Mark Linen.—A little vinegar in which a rusty nail has remained a few days, makes a mark on linen which is not easily obliterated.

GYPSUM OR PLASTER.

Plaster, first introduced into the United States from Paris by Dr. Franklin, has effected the most important improvement in agriculture perhaps that has ever been made. Extensive districts in this and other countries, have been benefited by its introduction to an extent which, considering the comparatively *small amount* of the substances employed is truly astonishing. In Germany, says Lampodius, one of her own agricultural writers, "It may with certainty be stated, that by the use of gypsum, the produce of clover, and the consequent amount of live stock have been increased *at least one third*."

"There are, however, some tracts of country where the use of plaster has been attempted without success. But this arose from its being one of the original constituents of the soil, which derived no advantage from the addition of a new quantity. The existence of this salt naturally, in those lands upon which plaster produced little or no effect, has been proved by analysis."—Chaptal, p. 73.

Much mystery has heretofore enveloped the modus operandi of this manure; but before the light of science the cloud is vanishing away.—Many have supposed its efficacy to arise from the *specific food* which is furnished to certain plants, as to clover, for instance, which seems especially benefited by its application. But when we consider that by the application of a *handful*, as it were, of this manure, upon an acre of good ground, the product is increased from a few hundreds to *tons* of grass, it is at once apparent that, on such a supposition, the cause is wholly inadequate to the effect. It was reserved for the gifted and honored Liebig to lift the veil, and to produce a theory, not only plausible in itself, but fully sustained in all its parts by the experience of practical men.

His theory is this: that the efficacy of plaster consists in its arresting, as it rises in exhalations from the soil, or descends in rain, dew or snow from the atmosphere, the ammonia which is generated by the decay of animal matter and appropriating it to the use of the growing crop. We will permit him to present his own views, however, in a few extracts from his Organic Chemistry.

"Nitrogen exists in every part of the vegetable structure."—p. 88. "All animal," [and vegetable] "bodies, during their decay, yield the nitrogen which they contain, to the atmosphere, in the form of ammonia."—p. 72. "The evident influence of gypsum depends only upon its fixing in the soil the ammonia of the atmosphere, which would otherwise be volatilized, with the water which evaporates."—p. 75. "In order to form a conception of the effect of gypsum, it may be sufficient to remark, that 100 lbs. of burned gypsum fixes as much ammonia in the soil as 6250 lbs. of horse's urine would yield to it."--p. 88. "If a field be strewed with gypsum, and then with putrified urine, or the draining of dung hills, all the carbonic of ammonia will be converted into the sulphate, which will remain in the soil."—p. 184. "If we strew the floors of our stables, from time to time, with common gypsum, they will lose all their offensive smell, and none of the ammonia which forms can be lost, but will be retained in a condition serviceable as a manure."—p. 185. "But this is not all. When we give a plant nitrogen in considerable quantity, we enable it to attract with greater energy from the atmosphere, the carbon which is necessary for its nutrition."—138. Now "carbon enters into the composition of all plants."—3. So that, by strewing a field with gypsum, we enable plants to supply themselves from the atmosphere, not only with nitrogen, on which their most nutritious principles depend, but also with carbon, the chief constituent of all their frame work.

This theory is confirmed by several circumstances which have long attracted the attention of the observing farmer.

1. It has been observed that plaster acts with increased efficacy when applied in connection with manures, or recently manured lands. The solution of the phenomena by our theory is easy and satisfactory. The ammonia, which would otherwise escape from the decomposing manure into the atmosphere, is seized upon by the plaster, detained in the soil, and wholly converted to the use of the growing crop.

2. It has been observed that plaster acts with greater power on soils which have been recently stirred, than on those which have lain for a long time unmoved. Solution—By stirring the soil its porosity is increased; consequently it absorbs more freely the dews that fall upon it—from which the plaster separates and hoards up in the soil the rich deposits of the atmosphere. In proof of the extent to which the atmosphere with fertilizing matters, which the rains and dews are constantly depositing upon the surface of the earth, we will here introduce the substance of a statement made to the American editor of Liebig, by Mr. E. Tufts, of Charlestown.

"Eight years since, about three quarters of an acre of land, situated on one side of a lane and on a declivity, were broken up. About the same time, the proprietor of a field on the opposite side of the lane, and above the land of Mr. T., commenced gardening on a large scale, and formed an immense bed of compost in the lane. This heap was made up of animal and vegetable matters, and from receiving constant additions is continually undergoing fermentation, and the gases and vapors emanating from it are always perceptible. Four years ago Mr. T. observed, that in some inexplicable way, his land had become so fertile as to induce him to dispense with the use of manure, he has not since used it, and is now fully persuaded that its fertility is owing to certain vapors arising from the heap and then descending on his land. None of the soluble matters of the heap are carried to Mr. T.'s field, no manure has been applied, and its fertility continue unimpaired."—*Appendix to Liebig, p.* 366.

3. Plaster has been observed to produce but slight effects upon old, dry and hide-bound meadows. Says Liebig, (p. 87,) "Water is absolutely necessary to effect the decomposition of gypsum, and also to assist in the absorption of the sulphate of ammonia by the plants: hence it happens that gypsum is not observable on dry fields and meadows." To which may be added, that but a small quantity of putrescent matter existing in such cases, the exhalations are inconsiderable; and what is deposited from the atmosphere by dews cannot be absorbed by the soil in consequence of its compact, impenetrable surface. On old, and even dry pasture lands, the effect is much greater, there being ever present on their surface, a portion of manure to serve as a basis for its action.

4. It has been universally observed that the most striking effect of plaster is on the clover crop. Reason—"Red clover contains double the quantity of nitrogen that common hay does."—*Gray, p.* 158.

5. It has occurred, in the experience of different farmers, that where one part of the field is sown with plaster immediately before a thunder shower, and another directly after the same shower, the portion sown first was benefited in a far higher degree than the other. Reason—"Rain water must, at all times, contain ammonia, though not always in equal quantity. It must be greater in summer than in spring or winter, because the intervals of time between the showers are greater. The rain of a thunder shower after a long protracted drought contains the greatest quantity which is conveyed to the earth at any one time."—*Liebig, p.* 73.

6. Considering the beneficial effects of plaster at large, it has been observed that they depend, in general, not so much on any peculiarity in the location, or composition of soils, as on those physical conditions which render the surface of the soil an easy medium for the transition of soluble matter: all of which must go to corroborate the theory in question.

From the views thus presented, we are led to infer—

1. That the atmosphere is an inexhaustible source of food for plants. 2. That the most available agent for securing the benefit of this food to plants is plaster. 3. That viewed in this light, the value of plaster in agriculture can hardly be over-rated. 4. Then it may be safely recommended for general use on all soils containing a portion of fermentative matters, and not so compact or wet, as to prevent the process of exhalation and absorption. 5. That it should always be applied to the surface of the soil, or at least within the influence of the atmosphere. 6. That it should be sown at an early date in the season, before the period of the most abundant dews and exhalations has commenced. 7. That it should always accompany manures used as a top dressing, or only slightly buried in the soil: and 8. That it should be liberally employed about our barnyards, stables, vaults, manure heaps, compost beds, &c,—not however in compost under the supposition that it will hasten the fermentation of the mass. "Davy has refuted this opinion by direct experiment, placing it beyond a doubt, that the mixture of plaster with manures, whether animal or vegetable, does not facilitate decomposition."—*Chaptal, p.* 74.

The proper quantity to be used when sown broadcast upon the field, has been decided by experience, as also by chemical science, to be from one to one and a half bushels per acre.

WOOD ASHES.

Ashes, whether "live" or leached, considering the certainty, uniformity and power with which they act, as well as the permanency of their action upon vegetation, may well be ranked among the very best manures. The *fact* of this superiority over other manures is very generally understood: the *reason* of this superiority appears quite obvious when we reflect that they are composed entirely of organised matter, reduced to the most consolidated form, and when, further, we learn from chemistry that their chief bulk consists of the very material which enters most largely into the finer grains and grasses. Yet, strange as it may be, no inconsiderable portion of this priceless article is suffered to be lost to all the purposes of cultivation, being permitted to lie waste about our dwellings, and to disappear as useless rubbish. To

this remark, however, we find (by going to be sure a great way off for it,) one very striking exception. Even leached ashes, transported thither from every State in New England, and all the way from the Canadas, "are bought up on L. Island at an expense of from 35 to 50 cents a bushel, and considered a profitable investment at that."—*Cult. vol.* 6, *p.* 42.

The most profitable use of this manure, when applied directly to crops, is probably on light silicious soils—ashes being admirably calculated not only to improve the texture of such soils, but to furnish to them just that kind of organic matter in which they are most liable to be deficient. They may be applied, however, with certain benefit to any soil, and that either by spreading them upon the surface of grass or grain lands, or by applying them to the hill or drills in the case of hoed crops. The practice of dropping a handful in the hill at the time of planting, has been practised by many farmers, and with excellent results. But perhaps their highest value will be found in the compost bed, since being capable of liberating a large amount of nitrogen, they will greatly promote the process of fermentation. "One bushel of ashes contains 5 1-2 lbs. of potash, a quantity sufficient to decompose 200 lbs. of peat earth."—*Gray's Elements, p.* 318.

SALTPETRE.

Saltpetre, as a manure, has been employed in the way of experiment, by several of our enterprising farmers, and in some instances with signal benefit to the crops to which it has been applied; its use however has been abandoned by the most judicious, as being more expensive than profitable. That a solution of this may be serviceable for soaking seed corn, has been established by the experience of many of our farmers. That it may also be employed effectually, to banish the canker-worm from our apple orchards, appears from an experiment made by O. M. Whipple, Esq. of Lowell—an account of which may be found in Colman's Fourth Report, p. 335.

Considerable quantities of this subject frequently accumulate in combination with earth, under old buildings, particularly barns and horse sheds—when available in this form, the expense of saving and applying it will always be exceeded by the prefit.

COMMON SALT.

Common salt, highly recommended as a manure by some, has been as much depreciated by others, and hence, when directly applied, is considered as a doubtful fertilizer by almost all. The obscurity in regard to its use, however, rests chiefly on the quantity which ought to be employed. The result of comparative experiments made in Germany, showed that a very few pounds per acre were sufficient to produce a largely increased return of grass, while in England it has been beneficially applied within the wide limits of from 5 to 20 bushels per acre, and when used for cleaning the land in autumn of 30 bushels an acre.—*Appendix to Johnson p.* 5.

Employed in moderate quantities in composts, salt is highly promotive of fermentation; applied liberally late in the fall, or early in the spring, is very destructive to worms and insects; used in the form of a brine for soaking seed wheat, it prevents the smut; and it otherwise acts beneficially—by stimulating the absorbent vessels of plants, or imparting to them direct food: by preventing injury from the sudden transitions of temperature, and by increasing the moisture of dry hot soils. It has a specific effect upon all plants of the cabbage and onion tribe: nothing is more beneficial to an asparagus bed; and it is suggested to those who consult their own interests by rearing the most valuable kinds of fruits, to try the experiment cautiously, of applying salt or brine in moderate quantities about the roots of their trees.—*Farm. Cab.*

Whether, however, it will be expedient for farmers to introduce this manure in general practice, even if it suits one's particular soil, is wholly to be decided by a reference to its comparative expensiveness.

SOOT.

This substance, consisting chiefly of geine, nitrogen, and the salts of lime, potash, soda, ammonia, is ranked by Dr. Dana "among the most powerful of manures in the class consisting of geine and salts." He observes: "On the principles adopted for determining the value of manures, the salts in 100 lbs. of soot are equal to one ton of cow-dung. Its nitrogen gives in a value, compared with cow-dung, as 40 to 1."—*Manual, p.* 161.

A most satisfactory experiment with this substance has been tried by the writer the present year. From two to three quarts of soot, which had been collected from the fire-place the last autumn, and lain exposed to the weather through the winter, was, some time in April, carefully incorporated with the soil about the roots of an egg plum tree, which though it had borne fruit repeatedly, had attained but a very small size, and had not, in the last seven years put out so many inches of new wood. The result has been, that, by actual measurement, it has sent forth numerous shoots the past season, from two to three feet long, and one to the length of four feet and a half.

SAND, GRAVEL AND CLAY.

Pure sand and gravel, from the obvious tendency they have to separate the particles, and thus increase the porosity of a tenacious and compact soil, may readily be supposed to possess no inconsiderable influence in improving such lands as by retaining too much water on their surface, are rendered unpleasant and difficult of cultivation, and to a greater or less degree unfruitful. It might also be taken for granted that pure clay would be alike beneficial when employed to give solidity to such light and porous soils as are incapable of retaining manures, and exposed to suffer severely from drought.

"On sandy soils, a load of clay properly incorporated, will produce a greater, because a more lasting effect, than a load of manure. Of this the fine farm formerly owned by Judge Buel, is an example. This was originally a hungry, porous sand. To give it tenacity [and proper retentiveness of moisture, Judge Buel covered his fields with clay from the Albany clay-banks, at the rate of from 20 to 30 loads per acre; and his experience convinced him that a load of such clay (it contained from 20 to 30 per cent. of lime,) was of more benefit than a load of barnyard manure. He distributed his clay as fast as drawn, upon the sward or surface, where it was decomposed by the rains and frosts, when it was pulverized by the roller, and further distributed by the harrow."—*Cultivator, vol.* 9, *p.* 45.

"Even sand upon clay, or clay upon sand, are beneficial applications to improve the soil; the only question being, how far the benefits will repay the expense of application. The earthy materials are to plants what the stomach is to animals—the recipient of food, and the laboratory of the main process of nutrition. The presence of clay, lime and sand, are all essential in the soil, to enable it to perform its healthful functions. Where either of these is naturally deficient, it may be artificially supplied with manifest advantage."—*Ib.*

COMPOSTS.

Mr Timothy Benedict, of Pittsfield, in the fall of 1841, prepared a compost heap of swamp muck and lime, by mixing one bushel of the latter with a common load of the former, taken fresh from the bed. The last spring, he applied this to a portion of his cornfield, a shovelful to the hill, treating the remainder of the field in similar way with common stable manure. When examined by the agricultural committee in September, it appeared that the compost bed had been equally efficacious as the manure. The crop was a luxuriant one, and received the second premium of the Society.

Ashes and muck, in the proportion of 4 or 5 bushels of the former to a common load of the latter, form a very valuable compost. If the muck be in a fine powdered state, the materials may be thoroughly blended together, and applied at once to the soil. But if the muck be of a strong texture, and contain much vegetable fibre, some time will be necessary for its decomposition. Leached ashes will answer the purpose equally as well as lime, if a somewhat larger proportion be employed.

To this compost too high a valuation can hardly be attached. A series of experiments (amounting to 29 in number,) instituted the past season, by the editor of the New England Farmer, has resulted in showing it to be second in the scale of composts only to one "composted of both the dung and urine of cattle, horses, hogs and human beings, mixed with straw and muck" in a barn cellar.—See the Farmer, vol. 21, p. 157.

Finally, it may be remarked in relation to compost heaps, that the more heterogeneous their materials, the more rapid and perfect will be their decomposition; since the greater the number of affinities brought into play, the greater will be the struggle between the particles of the mass to indulge their "likings and antipathies" in making election of their future (though it may be very temporary) associates. Let not the manufacturer of composts, then, be afraid of laying under contribution too many of the sources of animal, vegetable and mineral substances capable of being made to fatten his plants and to "gladden the soil."

Occasion will be taken, in concluding, simply to express the sentiment, that would the present race of cultivators of the soil but "come to the light" which science is shedding upon their profession, and in accordance with its teachings, put in full requisition the resources of fertility which every where abound around them, another generation would inherit from their hands a land of garden spots, and "shout the merry harvest home" on fields where now is only heard the sad, monotonous complaint of "hard, hard times."—*Foote's Essay on Manures, in Berkshire Farmer.*

Slow Poison.—Some opponent of stimulating drinks told an old gentleman that coffee was a poison. "It must be a very slow one," he replied, for I have been using it seventy years, and never thought it injured me.—*Tenn. Agricult.*

From the Providence Chief.

PREMIUMS OF THE RHODE ISLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

No. I.

I wish to direct the attention of the farming portion of your readers to the advertisement of a Cattle Show and Fair, to be holden in Pawtuxet, in September next, issued by the Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry, in large show bills, and published in the New England Farmer, of the 3d of May. The amount of premiums offered by the Society is large, being nearly eight hundred dollars.

The Standing Committee, I conceive, have shown a commendable sagacity in the selection of subjects for experiments and competition, and the premiums are sufficiently large in some cases to tempt the cupidity, if they do not stimulate the ambition of our farmers to greater improvement in many branches of husbandry. Under the head of "Grain, Vegetable Crops, and Agricultural Experiments," the premiums offered amount to three hundred and seventynine dollars, and there is not a subject indicated that is not more or less important to every farmer in the State, as will be perhaps more obvious by a slight review of some of them.

First—"For a satisfactory, and the most satisfactory statement in writing, of the expense of raising any kind of grain crop, showing the least cost per bushel. The soil and subsoil on which the crop is raised, must be named, and the cost stated as follows: Rent of land for one year; quantity, and kind of manure; plowing, harrowing, and rolling—days at; Planting and sowing—days at; harvesting—days at; tilling—days at. First premium, $12; second do. $8; third do. $6."

We ask the practical farmers if they can tell the actual cost per bushel of raising any of our commonly cultivated grains, at a given rate of labor, rent or interest of land, and in seasons of mean fertility? For the want of established data of this kind, all the plans and calculations of the husbandman are involved in doubt and uncertainty. Until such, and many kindred data be fixed, with all the accuracy that the nature of the case admits of, there can be no such thing as systematic husbandry in our State. At a given price for cotton and labor, the manufacturer can determine within the fraction of a cent, the cost of every quality of cloth, and hence it depends upon the contingencies of the market solely, whether his labors are to be rewarded with profit or subject to a loss.

The farmer is equally subject to the contingencies of the market, and in addition to those of the weather, with so far as we have been able to learn, nothing but vague and unsatisfactory *guesses* as to the cost to himself of every cultivated crop. With these views, we conceive that he will confer no slight obligation upon the agricultural community who shall determine with rigid accuracy, the cost per bushel of raising corn, rye, oats, barley, and wheat. Let a fair average yield per acre of each crop be assumed, and all the other elements of an exact experiment are at the command of the experimenter.

It is of nearly equal consequence to determine the cost of producing other farm crops, such as potatoes, carrots, onions, ruta bagas, sugar beets, &c.

But the premiums offered by the Society are restricted to given crops, and the importance of the object, independent of the temptation of the premiums, should induce competition in the settlement of a question which bears directly upon the interest of every farmer. M.

For the N. E. Farmer.

CURCULIO IN THE PLUM.

Braintree, May 29th, 1843.

Mr Putnam—On a visit to an eminent horticulturist in the State of New York, in June last, he remarked that he had great faith in the application of salt under the plum tree as a sure remedy for the Curculio on the fruit. He remarked that he had never succeeded with the plum till the previous year (1841,) when his yield of fruit was quite satisfactory. He then shew me his plum trees, which were free from the puncture of the insect, except one tree, which was overlooked, and which was punctured as usual. It may be as well to give his whole letter to me in answer to inquiries as to when and the quantity of salt applied—and the season, I trust, is not too far advanced for cultivators of this luscious fruit to try this experiment, as it is cheap and expeditious.

"*Flushing, 4th month*, 1843.

"Thy letter of the 27th ultimo, was duly received, and in reply to thy inquiries about salt for plum trees, I cannot say how small a quantity will answer, for I have always put it on so as to make the ground look white, a little further than the branches extend. The salt may be put on any time before the fruit sets. I do n't think I had ten plums stung this year, except on the one where I put no salt, and on that one, there was not a plum but what was stung by the Curculio. I have the fullest confidence in it. It is necessary to observe some care, if there should be other plants under the plum trees, as the salt will destroy them.

Thine, respectfully, I. W."

There have been a number of communications made to the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, respecting the Curculio, which show the solicitude of the public to rid themselves of that pest of one of our most delicious fruits. The authors of some of them have devoted much time and labor to the subject:—one communication has been put into my hands from an esteemed friend of horticulture, from the county of Worcester, which I shall lay before the Society at our next meeting, wherein the habits of the Curculio are quite fully described. This must have been a work of time, patience and careful observation.

BENJ. V. FRENCH,
Chairman of the Committee on Fruits of the Mass. Hort. Society.

We are sorry that the above communication did not find its way to us in season for insertion last week, when Mr F. intended it should be published. But though late, it may be well to try the effect of salt around the trees, even now.—Ed. N. E. F.

Those who have the care of the young should make it an essential part of education to render every thing as cheerful as possible for them. The infant mind is intuitively susceptible of gladness, and equally abhorrent of gloom, and whatever picture is presented to it early, leaves a shade which will influence every hour of its future existence: and in fact, it is highly necessary for its after position in life, to lay up a store of bright and cheering recollections, to enable it to bear up against the disappointments which all experience—*Selected.*

For the New England Farmer.

SALT AS A PRESERVATIVE OF SQUASH VINES.

Mr Editor—I noticed a communication in your paper of May 24, over the signature of "A Farmer of Middlesex," relative to the use of salt brine on squash vines to prevent the depredations of the bugs, which was suggested to his mind by the flourishing condition in which he saw a lot of squashes at Phillip's Beach, Lynn. Now, sir, I know something about this lot of squashes as well as many other lots that have been raised in that neighborhood, and the great secret about the matter is not so much that the salt has an effect to keep the bugs away, as that the squashes are always planted very early, and as the late frosts of spring do not do so much injury in that neighborhood as in Middlesex, the farmers get the squashes up and of a good size before the bugs make their appearance; and as the leaves are tougher, the bugs do not destroy them as much as when the plants are more tender.

I notice this, sir, because I think some may rely too much on the salt to do the work which if not prevented by early planting, I think must be done by hand, and thereby lose the crop of squashes. If the "Farmer of Middlesex" will visit Phillips' Beach now, he will see squashes up and already nearly beyond the reach of the depredations of the bugs. Another Farmer of Middlesex.

May 25, 1843.

☞"Another Farmer of Middlesex" misapprehends the true point of inquiry in regard to the marrow squashes on Phillips' Beach last year. We *ourself* saw those squashes in the latter part of August, and it was our own remarks last year, that suggested the article of May 24. Now we had no reference to the escape of these squashes from the yellow or striped bug, that destroys by eating the first leaves of the vine. Our own vines, and those of many other persons, escaped that enemy. Early planting and good cultivation may have acted as protection against the yellow bug. But the great harm to our vines for the last two years, has come from a more formidable and deadly enemy—from a worm in the heart or pith of the root and the vine. This worm is the offspring of a fly that deposites eggs on the stalk of the vine in June, which soon hatch, and the young go into the vine and revel there; and the consequence is, that the large flourishing vine of four, five or six feet in length, withers and dies. It was this enemy that the Marrow squash escaped on Phillips' Beach, and this variety (the "Marrow,") escaped that enemy no where else within the limits of our own observation. Why did it escape *there?* This is the question. Why did it escape—not the yellow bug—but the *worm at the root?* Had the salt of the sea-shore any thing to do with it? This is the point of inquiry. Let salt and brine be tried, but let it be cautiously, so not to kill the plants.—Ed. N. E. F.

Beeswax.—The neatest way, says the Farmer's Cabinet, to separate beeswax from the comb is, to tie it up in a linen or woollen cloth or bag, with a pebble or two to keep it from floating; place it in a kettle of cold water, which hang over the fire: as the water heats, the wax melts and rises to the surface, while all the impurities remain in the bag

HINTS FOR RENOVATING OLD SOILS.

Heretofore, the farmers of this country have cultivated a soil enriched for ages by the yearly addition of a fresh stratum of mould. From the first existence of vegetation upon the dry land, decayed plants, leaves, &c. have continually furnished a supply of manure, which the winds have liberally spread abroad. As the supply was annually greater than the consumption, the earth, unexhausted by its productions, increased in fertility. The thick layer of vegetable mould which covered the face of the earth, was a storehouse of food for plants, and this quantity increased by the conversion of wood into ashes, by clearing. It is not wonderful then, that for some years, newly cleared settlements should abound in produce, and require little more labor than that of plowing and reaping; for during this period the provision is wasting which for centuries had been accumulating. But the time will come, and indeed has come in many sections, where the soil has been exhausted by improper cultivation, and is now too weak of itself to make plants grow with their former luxuriance. The grand question now presents itself—"how shall the soil be renovated and brought back to its former richness and fertility?" My answer would be, in addition to manuring, to break the under crust, opening and stirring the subsoil, and partially mixing it with the upper soil, by which means it so alters and disposes the earth in which plants are rooted, that the radicals shoot more easily and more extensively through it, or in other words, it becomes a better filterer for straining and applying nourishment to their inhaling or absorbing vessels.

It is a well established fact, or axiom in agriculture, that the deeper the soil is, the more favorable will it be for the purposes of cultivation. To produce this desideratum, several plans have been adopted, either by thorough trenching with the spade, or by the use of the subsoil plow. Air and water are the chief instruments which nature makes use of to enrich the earth.

It is by close attention to passing events, that any desired object can ever be obtained. As far as experiments have been made, we find the earth liberally affording its produce, in ten-fold quantity, and the land that now supports one hundred inhabitants, may be made to give equal enjoyment to a thousand. But in this stage, a well managed farm must be carried on with more labor, expense, and more exact skill. The most profitable system of culture is that which pays the greatest per cent. on the money laid out in cultivation, while the land is greatly increasing in its productive powers, is a truth which no one will attempt to deny.

For the last four or five years, I have had my attention directed to the great benefits derived from subsoil plowing in Europe, and have felt very anxious to obtain an implement for that purpose, adapted to my soil. For three years I have been making some experiments with merely an apology for a subsoil plow, as it only penetrated about five or six inches below the bottom of the furrow made by the common plow; the share was thin and flat, and only three inches wide at its broadest part. Still, with this simple, and I might almost say, ineffectual machine, I could see a very perceptible difference in the appearance of the crop, more especially in a drought. Corn in that part of the field where the soil had been stirred deep with the apology, (for that is the name I gave it,) maintained a dark healthful color, while that adjoining, that had not been stirred with the skeleton or apology, turned yellow, had a sickly appearance, and the leaves curled. In fact, the difference was so apparent, that it was noticed by those passing by on the road, although at some distance. I tried it in my carrot and beet field with equal success. I have also used it on stiff loam and on soil inclininn to sand, with decided advantage. This I was not prepared for, as I had always supposed such soil would not be benefited by it; but on examination, I found the subsoil below the reach of the common plow, very compact and nearly as hard as a beaten track on the surface.

As for myself, and from my own experience, I entertain not a doubt of the utility of deep plowing: not by turning up the under soil, but by following in the furrow made by the first plow, with a real subsoil plow, which if properly constructed, pulverizes and stirs the earth from 12 to 14 inches. Indian corn, and all tap-rooted plants, in such a mass of loosened earth, would not, I am confident, suffer much from an ordinary drought. Like a sponge, it would absorb a vast quantity of rain water, and become a reservoir to supply the wants of the plants. Nothing is more common in a dry season, than the rolling or curling of the leaves of corn, and that circumstance is often mentioned as an evidence of the severity of a drought.

There is another advantage in subsoiling. If the season is wet, it has the effect of partially draining the land, and causes the water to settle and carry with it any vitriolic or other noxious matter.

I am not aware that subsoil plowing has as yet in this country, received much attention, or been tried to any extent, but from the experiments I have made, and with a very indifferent implement, the results have been such as to warrant the belief that it will prove of very great advantage on old soils that have been long under cultivation.—*Central N. Y. Far.*

ON RAISING DUCKS.

Young ducks are very tender, and many are lost by their being exposed to water in their early age. If ducks are only allowed water enough to drink, and that under such arrangements that they cannot get into it, until they pass their tender age, say till six or eight weeks old, much better success would doubtless attend this business. Large numbers have been raised without water to swim in, and care was taken to keep them dry, and they have had no diseases, and the losses have been small, scarcely any dying, unless by accident.

We are aware that some are opposed to this practice, and will name instances in which they have allowed young ducks to run in water, and yet they have been remarkably successful, raising all that were hatched. But as some have had much the best success in raising without water, and have made experiments on an extensive scale, raising 6 or 700, their opinions are entitled to much respect, and more experiments should be made on the dry plan. Will our readers who try it, let us know the result?

Ducks should have a liberal share of animal food, of which they are very fond, and their principal object in going into water seems to be to obtain this kind of food, as they are constantly searching for it. Frogs, cut or pounded fine, are very acceptable food, and cost nothing but a little time in catching them. Some will say that it is wicked to kill the poor harmless frogs. Do such consider it right to kill the innocent calves and lambs to gratify their own appetites, or to encourage the butcher in his work of destruction?—*Bost. Cult.*

"A STITCH IN TIME SAVES NINE."

Cultivators will find a great advantage in attending to every thing at the proper season. In weeding, a few days of delay beyond the proper time, will frequently increase the labor one half. When weeds first start from the ground, they are very tender, and a little stirring of the earth will readily destroy them; but if neglected, their roots soon extend in every direction, and it requires much labor to destroy them, and they often become so rank, and spread so wide that they not only shade the tender plants, and rob them of nutriment, but render it difficult to distinguish the weeds from the plants, and to eradicate the former without disturbing the latter. Therefore every one should be diligent and careful to do every thing in the proper season, especially the destroying of weeds, remembering that "a stitch in time saves nine."—*Ibid.*

KEEP YOUR CATTLE OUT OF THE HIGHWAY.

The practice of allowing cattle to run at large in the highway, is one of the greatest nuisances in existence, besides being dangerous to the lives and property of travellers. A sad accident occurred from this cause, to a citizen of this town, while he was passing through Lunenburg the other day. It is well known that cows will always cross the road when a carriage approaches them, and generally at or about the time it is to pass them. In the present case—the horse being a powerful animal, and going at good speed—the driver was unable to shun the cow, and she came in collision with the horse, which frightened him. The carriage instantly came in contact with the cow, breaking the shafts, rendering the horse entirely unmanageable. A lady sprang from the carriage with a child in her arms, and escaped without injury. The gentleman soon found it necessary to leap from the carriage, and in doing which he had his leg broken. Thus the lives of three persons were put in imminent peril by the pernicious practice of allowing cows to run in the road. The horse and carriage, both valuable, were much damaged. In our opinion, the owner of the cow ought in justice, to be severely fined, and be obliged to pay all damages done to persons and property.—*Fitchburg Sent.*

Take Care of your Hens.—A correspondent of the Greenfield Gazette says:—"One of the sore evils of social life is to live by the side of a neighbor, who with a spot of ground scarcely large enough to raise a dozen cabbages, persists in keeping a troop of hens, which with the captain of the gang all billed and spurred for action, are ever ready for marauding expeditions upon the grounds and gardens of their neighbors. From morn till night the work of destruction goes on, and little does the owner seem to care, provided their crops are filled from the grounds or granaries of others. The damage that is occasioned is considerable, but this is nothing in comparison to the vexation that is produced."

A severe drought prevails in some sections of Georgia—cotton and wheat discouraging.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,
AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

BOSTON, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 1843.

CARE OF THE GROWING CROP—TILLAGE.

Too much labor can hardly be bestowed upon our grounds while the crops are starting in their growth. Faithful stirrings of the soil in June, are among the most important and most profitable of all the labors upon the farm during the year.

We have often heard a farmer say, that in such a year, a field of corn had but a single hoeing, and yet the crop was as good as the farm ever gave. And frequently it has happened that potatoes had a single hoeing only, and did better than those on the farm that were hoed twice and three times. From a few facts like these, an inference is made in favor of slovenly tillage. That the ground can be worked too much and too deep in July for either corn or potatoes, we have no doubt—but on the contrary, we believe that more harm than good to the crops, is done by the deep plowing and high hilling that are common in July. The stirrings of the soil, if made before the corn shows its spindle on the earliest stalks, and before the young potatoes begin to form, are of very great service.

We regard thorough, frequent and deep workings of the soil in June, as *the most profitable* of all the labors of the year. The time and manner of tilling the crops, have more to do with the yield than is generally supposed.

The common practice is to go with the plow or cultivator through the cornfield early in June, and then with the hoe draw a little fresh earth up around the corn. The same thing is done in the latter part of June and again in July. At the last time of hoeing, the plow goes deep in the centre between the rows, and quite a hill is made by drawing the dirt up around the stalks. This process of cultivation we do not like.

A better way is to take a small *plow, at first*, and plow as deep and as near to the corn as possible. This will cut many roots, we know, but the benefit of moving the soil *under* the hill, or almost under, while the plants are small, is more than enough to counterbalance the harm done by rending the roots while the plant is so small. If you cannot go deep enough by a single furrow to stir the soil down nearly as deep as you stirred it at the time of plowing in the spring, then go twice with the plow in the same place. If your rows are straight and your land is free from rocks and other obstructions to the plow, you should so work that the space on the row unplowed will be not more than six inches wide, and your furrow should be six inches deep.

When you have thus opened the furrows, you may immediately, or in a day or two subsequent, plow the furrows back, or you may use a cultivator or harrow to level them down. At a convenient time, you may use the hoe and just scratch the surface around the corn and remove the weeds. But the work with the hoe needs be but little. With plow, or cultivator, or harrow, go once through your corn as often as every four or five days, all through the month of June. About the 20th to the 25th of June, take the plow and run as deep as you can in the centre between the rows. These furrows may remain undisturbed for four or five days, and then leveled down with the cultivator. After this time, be very careful about disturbing the roots. Whatever is done in July, should be only a scratching of the surface. The hoe and a *very light* harrow may be used; but the plow and the cultivator are both too heavy for use then. Work *deep*, and *close to the corn, at first.* Work *deep* afterwards in the centre between the rows; but when the corn gets to stand a foot high, only break the surface crust and keep down the weeds. The reason for our recommendation rest on the fact that the deep plowing of the ground just as the roots are ready to enter and fill it, will put the ground in a much better state to nourish and feed those roots, than if the soil is not moved after the spring plowing. But when you have once got the roots into the portion of soil that has been plowed after the corn came up, be careful not to rend those roots: the soil they are now in is in a good state, and be careful to let them work. If you put the plow or cultivator in deep in July, you rend many roots; some new ones may form, but not many then. The effect will be to hasten the ripening of the corn, but to diminish the quantity. The course we here recommend, goes upon the presumption that little if any earthing up is to be done. We cultivate corn on a *perfectly flat* surface—make no hill—and we like this, after years of experience, better than we do the old practice. We put no manure in the hill. But those who do, will find benefit in turning out a part ef the manure with the plow, and then turning it back again.

This matter of plowing and hoeing corn, is one that ought to be studied by farmers more than it is. For the amount of the crop does not turn upon the manure alone, nor upon the natural quality of the soil—but much, very much, upon the modes of tillage. You need not fear that your labor will be lost which you bestow in stirring and pulverizing the soil up to the 20th or 25th June. You may then work much, and work deep, and all that you then and thus do, will be well paid for.

Potatoes.—We have had less experience and less success with potatoes than with corn. But a single trial of last year, gives us a persuasion that the same course of tillage that we have described above, is well suited to the potato, excepting that some hill must be made. We plowed the dirt off from the potatoes on a small experiment lot last season, running the plow *very near* them soon after they came up. Then we turned the dirt back, and in this way the first hoeing may be reduced to very little labor. Afterwards plow the dirt off and on again, but do not run the plow so near to the row by four or five inches the second time of working as you do the first. After that you may run the plow in the centre between the rows, as deep as you can.

LUCERNE.

We have noticed several times this season, the luxuriant growth of some lucerne mixed with grasses on a part of the grounds on which the late Hon. John Lowell experimented. We know not how long it is since the lucerne was sowed; but it is probably five years or more. The soil we cannot pretend to describe with accuracy, but it must be heavy and rather wet. It is a sort of intervale on the banks of a small stream. The subsoil must be quite wet; and yet two weeks ago the lucerne there was double the height of any of the other grasses, and its foliage large and rich. Yes, two weeks ago last Monday, when we saw it, this lucerne was more than a foot high apparently, and had the ground been covered with that alone, there would have been at that time a good crop.

We think the lucerne has not been tried so much in this country as its luxuriance entitles it to. It has been made to do well in various places, and we have no doubt that a little experience with it, would enable us to grow it successfully on most of our farms, and that we should find it much more productive than any of our grasses or our clovers. The appearance of that on the Lowell grounds has raised the question with us, whether the European recommendation that it be sown on a dry sandy or gravelly soil, is wise for us, with our hotter suns and dryer summers.

"THE CLAPP PULVERIZER."

We are informed that the implement we described last week, the combination of the roller and harrow, was made by Mr Chamberlain, a blacksmith in Roxbury, near Roxbury street, and that he is willing to fit them for any one who may wish to make trial of the tool.

FROSTS.

On the mornings of Thursday and Friday of last week, June 1st and 2d, we had severe frosts in this vicinity. In many gardens, the squashes and beans were cut down, and it will be necessary to plant again. This, we suppose, is about the extent of the damage, though the cold was so great that the plowed ground was frozen so that it would crack under the feet. On Saturday morning there was a thaw.

We were somewhat amused at hearing that there had been no frost in June before for several years; for we recollected that on the morning of June 6th, last year, there was a frost nearly as severe as this of June 2d this year; and yet the season was very fruitful. If people would only take the trouble to keep a record of the seasons, and note the peculiarities of each, they might save themselves from making many erroneous assertions to which their bad memory otherwise subjects them.

MASS. HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

EXHIBITION OF FLOWERS.

Saturday, June 3, 1843.

Joseph S. Cabot, Esq., of Salem, presented some very fine seedling Pansies. It gave us great pleasure to examine such fine specimens of this universal favorite. "The delicacy of its texture, and the vivacity of its purple are inimitable," says the Countess, *in le Spectacle de la Nature.* "The softest velvet, if set in competition with this flower, would appear to the eye as coarse as canvass."

Mr W. E. Carter, of the Botanic Garden, Cambridge, exhibited some very splendid bouquets, roses and other cut flowers.

From William Kenrick, Newton—Pæonies: Moutan Banksii, and other kinds; Fraxinella, Iris, Wistaria consequana, or Chinese Glycine, Purple Beech, Honeysuckles, &c. &c.

From A. Bowditch, Roxbury—Double Oleander.

By S. Sweetser, Woburn—Tree-rose, (Sanguinia,) Fushia, gracelis, cutting of 1842.

From Jno. A. Kenrick, Nonantum Dale, Newton—Dutch Pipe, Silver Bell, Pæony Moutan Banksii, P. Papaveracea, P. Tennifolia, P. Latifolia, P. Præcox; Azalias, Wayfaring Tree, Magnolia Cordata, New Scarlet Hawthorn, red and white Tartarian Honeysuckle, Caucasian Honeysuckle, Spiræ Hypericum, &c.

Tulips and Bouquets, by Samuel Walker, Roxbury. Among the tulips there were three new varieties.

For the Committee,
S. WALKER, *Ch'mn.*

NOTICE.—The Committee on Flowers are requested to meet at the rooms of the Society at 11 o'clock on Saturday next, 10th inst., for the transaction of business.

Per order, S. WALKER, *Ch'mn.*

EXHIBITION OF FRUITS.

From J. F. Allen—Grapes: Black Hamburg and Barsuraube—the latter fine. Also, beautiful Peaches, the first shown for the season.

For the Committee,
OTIS JOHNSON.

EXHIBITION OF VEGETABLES.

Good specimens of Cucumbers were exhibited by Mr J. L. L F. Warren. Also, Rhubarb, 12 stalks, which weighed 5 1-2 pounds.

JNO. A. KENRICK.

THERMOMETRICAL

Reported for the New England Farmer.

Range of the Thermometer at the Garden of the proprietors of the New England Farmer, Brighton, Mass. in a shaded Northerly exposure, for the week ending June 4.

June, 1843.		7, A.M.	12, M.	5, P.M.	Wind.
Monday,	29	50	68	52	E.
Tuesday,	30	52	70	51	E.
Wednesday,	31	52	61	46	N. W.
Thursday,	1	43	58	48	N. W.
Friday,	2	39	60	56	N. W.
Saturday,	3	52	72	60	S.
Sunday,	4	50	62	56	E.

BRIGHTON MARKET.—Monday, June 5, 1843.

Reported for the N. E. Farmer.

At Market 310 Beef Cattle, 15 Cows and Calves, 300 Sheep, and 1250 Swine.

Prices.—*Beef Cattle.*—We quote to correspond with last week. About the same prices were obtained for a like quality, viz. First quality $5.50. Second quality, $5 00 a $5.25. Third quality, $4.25 a 4.75.

Cows and Calves.—Sales, $17, $22 and $30.

Sheep.—Lots were sold at $1.75, $1.88, $2.00, $2.25 and $2.50.

Swine.—Lots to peddle at 4 1-4 to 4 1-2 for sows, and 5 1-4 a 5 1-2 for barrows. Large barrows 4 1-2. At retail, from 5 to 7.

WHOLESALE PRICES CURRENT.

Corrected with great care, weekly.

SEEDS. Herds Grass, $0 00 to 2 50 per bushel. Red Top 45 to 50 cents. Clover—Northern, 10 to 12c.—Southern, 8 a 9 c. Flax Seed, $1 75 per bushel. Lucerne, 33 c. per lb. Canary Seed, $4 50 per bushel.

GRAIN. Duty, Corn, Rye and Beans, free; Barley 20 per cent.; Oats 20 per cent.

There has been for a day or two past, somewhat of a speculative demand for corn, which has led to some advance in prices.

Corn—Northern, old, bushel 00 to 62—Southern, round yellow, old, 00 a 60—Southern flat yellow, new, 00 a 58—do. do. white 00 a 55—do New Orleans, 00 a 00—Barley 00 a 00 —Rye, Northern, 65 a 67—do. Southern, 60 a 63—Oats, Southern, 30 a 31—Northern do. 32 to 38—Beans, per bushel 1 00 a 1 62.—Shorts, per double bush. 25 a 27—Bran, 15 a 18.

FLOUR. The transactions the past week have been somewhat higher than last reported.

Baltimore, Howard Street, 4 mos. cr. $5 37 a 0 00 —do. wharf, $0 00 a 0 00 do. free of garlic, $0 00 a 5 37 —Philadelphia do. 4 mos. $5 25 a 5 37 —Fredericksburg, low P'd 4 mos. $5 25 a 5 37—Alexandria, wharf mountain, 0 00 a 0 00 —Georgetown, $5 25 a 5 50—Richmond Canal, $0 00 a 5 37 —do. City, $0 00 a 0 00—Petersburgh, South side $0 00 a 0 00 —do. Country $0 00 a 0 00—Genesee, common, cash, $5 37 a 5 44— do fancy brands $5 50 a 5 75 — Ohio via Canal, $0 00 a 0 00—do do New Orleans, cash $5 00 a 5 25. Rye, $3 25 a 0 00—Indian Meal in bbls. $2 87 a 3 00.

PROVISIONS. There have been no large operations during the past week, but the advance in Pork previously noticed has been fully sustained.

Beef—Mess 4 mo. new bbl. $8 00 a 8 50—Navy—$7 50 a 7 75.—No. 1, 0 00 a 7 00—do Prime $0 00 a 0 00—Pork—Extra clear 4 mo. bbl. $12 50 a 13 00—do Clear $11 50 a 12 00 do. Mess, 0 00 a 10 00—do Prime $7 75 a 8 00—do Mess from other States,— a — —do Prime do do $0 00 a 0 00 do. Cargo do. 0 a 0 00— —Clear do do $00 00 a 00 00— Butter, shipping, 0 a 00—do store, uninspected, 7 a 8—do dairy, 10 cts. a 14—Lard, No. 1, Boston ins. 6¼ a 6¾ —do South and Western, 5 a 6¼ — Hams, Boston, 6½ a 7 — Southern and Western, 5½ a 6½—Cheese, Ship'g and 4 meal, 4 a 5—do new milk, 5½ a 6½.

WOOL. Duty. The value whereof at the place of exportation shall not exceed 7 cts. per pound, free. All whereof the value exceeds 7 cts. per pound, 30 per ct. ad. val. and 3 cts. per pound.

We have no material change to notice in the prices of this article; some lots of prime selected Saxony fleeces, have sold at a few cents per lb. advance.

Prime or Saxony Fleeces, washed, lb. 36 a 40 c.—American full blood, do 33 a 34—Do. 3-4 do 32 a 00—Do. 1-2 do 29 a 30—1-4 and common do 25 a 27 — Smyrna Sheep, washed, 20 a 23— Do. unwashed, 10 a 13—Bengasi do 8 a 10—Saxony, clean, 00—Buenos Ayres unpicked, 7 a 10—do. do. picked, 12 a 16—Superfine Northern pulled lamb 26 a 30—No. 1 do. do. do. 23 a 25—No. 2 do do do 15 a 20—No. 3 do do do 12 a 15.

HOPS. Duty 20 per cent.

1st sort Mass. 1842, lb. 10 a 12. 2d do. do. do. 0 a 0.

HAY, 14 to 16 per ton—Eastern Screwed $10 to 12.

CHEESE—Shipping and 4 meal, 4 to 6c.—New 6 to 7.

EGGS. 9 a 12.

HERBACEOUS PLANTS.

For Sale by JOSEPH BRECK & CO., 100 varieties of the finest hardy Herbaceous Plants, from 25 to 50 cents per root—20 different varieties for 5 dollars. Now is the time for planting.

ALSO,

A fine collection of DOUBLE PICOTEE and CLOVE PINKS; PÆONIES; IRIS; POLYANTHUSES; COWSLIPS, &c. Boston, May 3, 1843.

BURDEN'S IMPROVED PATENT HORSE SHOES.

The subscriber takes pleasure in announcing to the public, that after years of study and labor, he has perfected his machinery for the manufacture of HORSE SHOES, which he now offers at the price of Horse Shoe Iron in bar of *equal quality*, thus saving the expense of making, (which amounts in all cases to the first cost of the iron,) besides the Shoes are more easily fitted to the hoof, and in no danger of pricking, the holes being all punched at a proper distance from the edge, The quality of the iron is also warranted superior to any heretofore used for the purpose.

All persons desirous of testing the great value and superiority of these over hand made Shoes, by sending $5 by mail or otherwise, 100 lbs assorted sizes will be immediately forwarded, warranted to suit the section of the country for which they are ordered, by applying to the subscriber at the works—Kellogg & Co.; Warren, Hart & Lesley, Troy—John Townsend; Lewis Benedict & Co., Albany- Piersons & Co., New York—Charles Smith, No. 42 India street, Boston—A. M. & B. W. Jones, Philadelphia—and E. Pratt & Brother, Baltimore—where further information may be had on the subject. HENRY BURDEN.

Troy Iron and Nail Factory
April 1, 1843.

SWEET POTATO SLIPS

Just received and for sale by JOSEPH BRECK & Co., 51 and 52 North Market Street, Boston. May 10.

HARRIS' TREATISE ON INSECTS.

For sale by JOSEPH BRECK & CO., Harris' Treatise on Insects. Price $2. Also, the second edition of Dana's Muck Manual, price 62½ cts. Feb 15.

POUDRETTE! POUDRETTE!!

The subscribers keep constantly on hand, and for sale, Poudrette in quantities to suit purchasers; packed in Barrels in order for shipping, or transportation by wagon or Rail Road.

The experience of five years past has satisfied many farmers, that this manure has the quickest operation upon vegetable matter, producing greater abundance, and is the cheapest manure they have ever tried.

Orders left at the New England Seed Store, and at the factory in Brookline, will meet with prompt attention.

For sale by J. BRECK & CO, 51 and 52 North Market st., Boston. Oct. 26.

SILK BUSINESS.

Silk Worm Eggs, Pea nuts, and Sulphurs, at $3 50 per ounce.

Mulberry Trees. Cantons and Multicaulis at $60 per thousand delivered in Boston, by J. R. BARBOUR.

Oxford, Jan. 25, 1843.
Near Depot on N. and W. R. Road. Feb. 1.

SEED BARLEY.

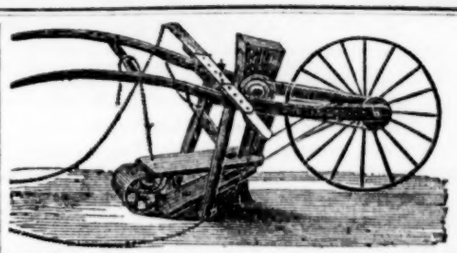
100 bushels prime Seed Barley, for sale by
April 25. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

MUCK MANUAL.

For sale by JOSEPH BRECK & CO., The Muck Manual for Farmers. By Dr S. L. Dana; price 62½.
Boston, April 13.

DRAFT AND TRACE CHAINS.

400 pair Trace Chains, suitable for Ploughing.
200 " Truck and leading Chains.
200 " Draft Chains. For sale by J. BRECK & CO., No. 52 North Market st.

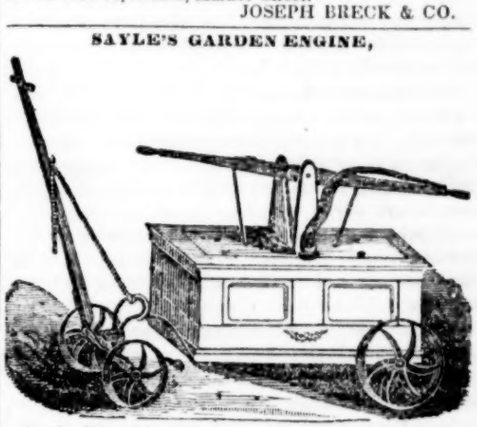


WILLIS'S LATEST IMPROVED SEED SOWER.

WILLIS has made some considerable improvements in his Seed Sower, making it complete as time and hard study can possibly make it. In using this machine, the farmer may be certain that his seed is put into the ground, and at the same time in the best possible manner. There has been a great difficulty in machines for sowing garden seeds; they are very apt to clog up, and the farmer might go over an acre of land and not sow a single seed; but not so with this; it is so constructed that it cannot possibly clog. In using this sower, the farmer can save one half of his seed, and do the work at less than one quarter the expense of the common way of sowing his seeds, and have it done in a much better manner; it opens the furrow, drops the seed, covers it over and rolls them down. It will sow any kind of Garden Seeds; say Ruta Baga, Mangel Wurtzel, Turnips, Carrots, Beets, Parsnips, Onions, &c.

For sale at the Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52, Boston, Market Street.
JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

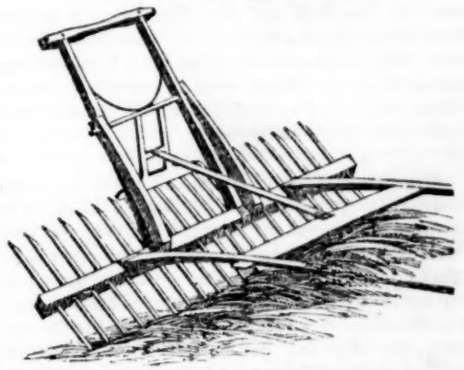
SAYLE'S GARDEN ENGINE,



A splendid article, will throw a constant stream of water to the distance of 50 or 60 feet, with great force, and in case of fire would be a good substitute for a fire engine. The most perfect article for the purpose ever introduced.

For sale at the Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Street, Boston.
May 24. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

REVOLVING HORSE RAKE.



The Revolving Rake which has been in general use in most parts of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, is found to be one of the most useful and labor saving machines now in use. One man and horse with a boy to lead, will rake on an average from 25 to 30 acres per day, with ease, and do the work well. They are coming into very general use in all parts of the country, and will, no doubt, in a few years supersede the use of the common hand rake. There is a great advantage in this rake over all others, as the person using it does not have to stop the horse to unload the rake.

For sale at the Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52, North Market Street, Boston
May 24. JOSEPH BRECK & Co.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Rattle-snake—a remarkable story respecting its poison.—To give you an idea of the long time this poison retains its property, I shall relate a curious but well authenticated series of facts, which took place in a central district of the State of Pennsylvania, some twevo or fifteen years ago.

A farmer was so slightly bit through the boot, by a rattlesnake, as he was walking to view his ripening cornfields, that the pain felt was thought by him to have been a scratch of a thorn, not having seen or heard the reptile. Upon his return home, he felt on a sudden, violently sick at the stomach, vomited with great pain, and died within a few hours.

Twelve months after this, the eldest son, who had taken his father's boots, put them on, and went to church at some distance. On his going to bed that night, whilst drawing off his boots, he felt slightly scratched on the leg, but merely mentioned it to his wife, and rubbed the place with his hand. In a few hours afterwards, he was awakened by violent pain; complained of a general giddiness, frequently, and expired before any succor could be applied with success. The cause of his illness was also quite a mystery.

In the course of time his effects were sold, and a second brother, through filial affection, purchased the boots, and if I remember rightly, put them on about two years after. As he drew them on, he felt a scratch, and complained of it, when the widowed sister being present, recollected that the same pain had been felt by her husband on the like occasion. The youth suffered and died in the same way that his father and brother died before him.

These repeated and singular deaths being rumored in the country, a medical gentleman called on the friends of the deceased, to inquire into the particulars, and at once pronounced their deaths to to have been occasioned by venom. The boots that had been the cause of complaint, were brought to him, when he cut one of them open with care, and discovered the extreme point of the fang of a rattlesnake issuing from the leather, and assured the people that this had done all the mischief. To prove this satisfactorily, he scratched with it the nose of a dog, and the dog died in a few hours, from the poisonous effects it was still able to convey. In confirmation of these facts, I am told by native Americans, that arrows dipped in rattlesnake venom, would carry death for ages after.—*Audubon's Notes on the Rattlesnake.*

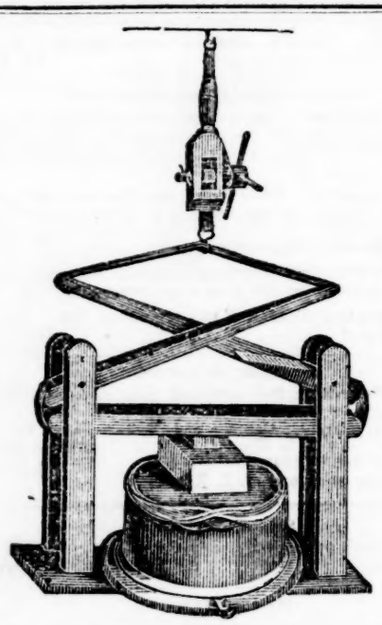
French Ladies.—Our climate is noted for three eminent qualities—extreme heat and cold, and the extreme suddenness of change. If a lady has bad teeth, or a bad complexion, or a consumptive habit, she blames it conveniently on the climate; if her beauty, like a tender flower, fades before noon, it is the climate. But our climate sustains the infancy, and why not its maturity? It spares the bud, and why not the opened blossoms, or the ripened fruit? Our negroes at the south are perfect in teeth, and why not the whites? The chief preservative of beauty in any country is health, and there is no place in which this great interest is so little attended to, as in the United States. To be sensible of this, you must visit Enrope. You must see the deep bosomed maids of England, and the females upon the Place Vendome and the Rue Castilione. There you will see no pinched and mean looking shoulders overlooking a sunken breast.

As for the French women, a constant attention to the quantity and quality of their food; and bathing and exercise are as regular as their meals. When children they play abroad in their gardens; they have their gymnastic exercises, their dancing, and other social amusements, to keep up a healthful temperament through life. Besides, a young lady here does not deform and injure herself by tight lacing. Fashion, usually insane, and an enemy to health, has grown sensible in this; she regards a very small waist as a defect, and points to the *Venus de Medici*, who stands out boldly in the Tuilleries, in vindication and testimony of the human shape; and now among ladies of good breeding, a waist which cannot dispense with tight lacing is thought not worth the squeezing.

When I left America, the more a woman looked like an hour-glass, the more she was pretty; and the waist most in esteem by ladies and ladies' men, was one you could span with your hands—giving its possessor a withered complexion, diseased lungs, and sickly children. If this is not reformed, alas for the republic! A French woman's beauty, such as it is, lasts her lifetime, by the care she takes of it. Her limbs are vigorous, her bosom well developed, her color healthy, her offspring robust, and she has a greater moral courage, and is a hundred times better fitted for dashing enterprises than the women of our cities.—*Letters from Paris.*

A Scotch blacksmith thus defined *metaphysics*: "When the party who listens disna ken what the party who speaks means; and when the party who speaks, disna ken what he means himsel—that is metaphysics."

In marriage, prefer virtue before beauty, and the mind before wealth.

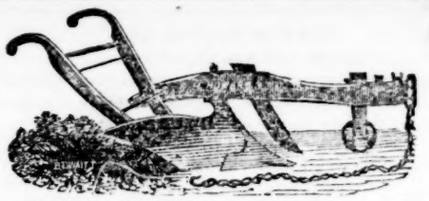


CHEESE PRESSES.

SELF-GOVERNING CHEESE PRESSES—two kinds—lately improved by the Shakers. These are so constructed that they govern and regulate themselves without weights, and are by far the best presses now in use.

For sale at the N. E. Agricultural Warehouse, 51 and 52 North Market street. JOS. BRECK & CO.

June 7, 1843.



HOWARD'S IMPROVED EASY DRAUGHT PLOUGH.

Great improvements have been made the past year in the form and workmanship of these Ploughs; the mould board has been so formed as to *lay the furrow completely over, turning in every particle of grass or stubble, and leaving the ground in the best possible manner.* The length of the mould board has been very much increased, so that the Plough works with the greatest ease, both with respect to the holding and the team. The Committee at the late trial of Ploughs at Worcester, say,

"Should our opinion be asked as to which of the Ploughs we should prefer for use on a farm, we might perhaps say to the inquirer, if your land is mostly light and easy to work, try Prouty & Mears, but if your *land is heavy, hard orrocky,* BEGIN WITH MR. HOWARD'S."

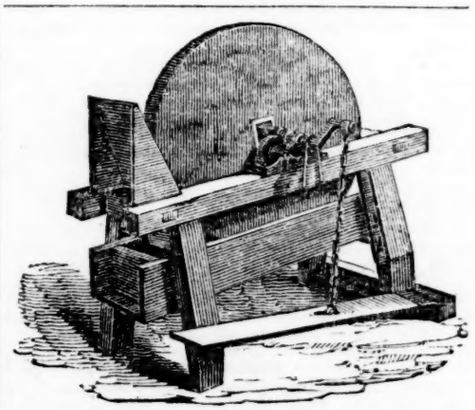
At the above mentioned trial the Howard Plough *did more work, with the same power of team, than any other plough exhibited.* No other turned more than twentyseven and one half inches, to the 112 lbs. draught, while the *Howard Plough turned twentymine and one half inches, to the same power of team!* All acknowledge that Howard's Ploughs are much the strongest and most substantially made.

There has been quite an improvement made on the shoe, or land side of this Plough, which can be renewed without having to furnish a new landside: this shoe likewise secures the mould board and landside together, and strengthens the Plough very much.

The price of the Ploughs is from $6 to $15. A Plough, sufficient for breaking up with four cattle, will cost about $10 50, and with cutter $1, with wheel and cutter, $2 50 extra.

The above Ploughs are for sale, wholesale and retail, at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, Nos. 51 & 52 North Market Street, by

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.



GRINDSTONES ON FRICTION ROLLERS.

Grindstones of different sizes, hung on friction rollers and moved with a foot treader, is found to be a great improvement on the old mode of hanging grindstones. Stones hung in this manner are becoming daily more in use, and wherever used, give universal satisfaction. The rollers can be attached to stones hung in the common way. For sale by J. BRECK & Co., No. 51 North Market street.

LACTOMETERS—a simple instrument for testing the quality of milk. For sale by J. BRECK & CO.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

A WEEKLY PAPER.

Terms, $2 per year *in advance,* or $2 50 if not paid within thirty days.

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